DIVISION OF FORESTRY

NEWS LETTER

STATE DEPT of NATURAL RESOURCES

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Vol. 7 No. 10 W.H. Fairbank-Editor F.J. Skewes-Asst. Editor October, 1948

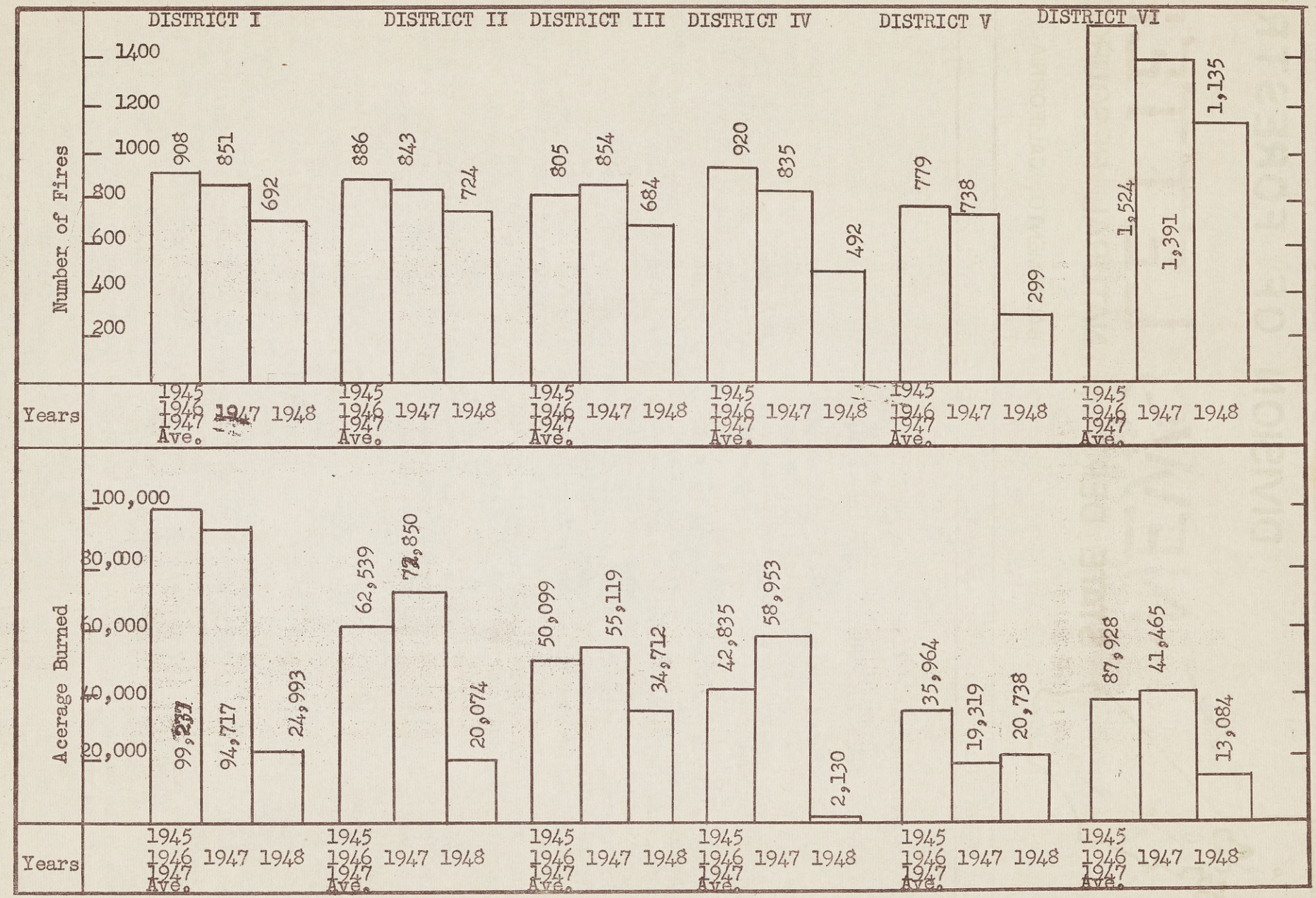
Ramona

STATE FORESTER NELSON REPORTS OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Although scattered rains fell in some parts of the State this month, there was at no time a sufficient amount to eliminate the extreme forest fire hazards that prevailed. It will be recalled that extremely critical conditions existed throughout the State until the 16th of September when scattered showers were in evidence, humidities climbed, and temperatures fell. Some northern areas also received rainfall from September 23 to September 25. There were general rains in Northern California from the third to sixth of October and again from the eleventh to fourteenth. With the exception of Northern Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties and in those areas north of Redding in the upper Sacramento Valley, rains were not of sufficient intensity to eliminate fire dangers. As a consequence, a large number of forest fires were experienced totalling 100 more than were recorded for the month of October of 1947. None of the fires, however, exceeded 400 acres. There was one of this size in Lake County on the first of October and a 70 acre timber fire in Yuba County on the 8th and a 300 acre brush fire in Riverside on the 7th and a 100 acre fire in lower Shasta County on the 27th. Notably absent during the month were rains in the southern part of the State in that area below the Tehachapi Mountains.

Although heavy rains again fell in Northern California mountainous areas from the first to fourth of November, hazardous conditions were not in any way alleviated in the southern part of the State. On Thursday, November 4 our most disastrous watershed fire of the year started in the Santa Ana Canyon near the Riverside Orange County lines under extreme Santana wind conditions. The fire was caused by a mattress and bedding catching fire in a trailer drawn behind an automobile, fragments of the burning material being thrown from the highway into the grass and brush. Under the prevailing conditions of 50 to 60 mile per hour winds and extremely low humidities, the initial attack crews were unable to effect immediate control of the several fires set. Under these conditions the fire spread very rapidly over the brush covered mountains. By Friday evening, the wind had materially diminished and control was accomplished by 11 A. M. Saturday, November 6 with approximately 22,000 acres burned. Since weather forecasts indicated a renewal of high winds on Monday, heavy patrol and mop-up operations were maintained on the fire. About 3 A.M. Monday, November 8 Santana winds again struck with renewed vigor and the fire broke out simultaneously in several places. It is interesting to note that where the fire broke was on the section of line that had been mopped up most completely because of its vulnerable nature and where the heaviest patrol was maintained. It was in a cliff section where mop-up crews had been lowered 75 to 150 feet by ropes for mop-up operations and where thousands of gallons of water had been used for mopping up purposes. By noon of that day the fire had again swept many thousands of acres of primary watershed lands. Final and complete control was effected by Wednesday night, November 10 with a total area of some 40,000 acres burned.

COMPARATIVE RECORD OF *FOREST FIRES 1945-1948 ON LANDS PROTECTED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF FORESTRY
OCTOBER 31 CUMULATIVE TOTAL FROM JANUARY 1



*THIS SUMMARY IS COMPILED FROM 10-DAY FIRE RECORDS AND WILL BE AT VARIANCE WITH THE FINAL YEARLY SUMMARY COMPILED FROM INDIVIDUAL FIRE REPORTS

Every available resource was used on both phases of this fire and included State Division of Forestry, the U. S. Forest Service, County Fire District equipment and personnel, 30 orchard spray rigs for protecting property, some 20 bulldozers, Army, Navy, and Marine personnel and equipment, and many organized volunteer units. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army gave splendid service. The local sheriff, police, and highway patrol handled the orderly evacuation of Silverado Canyon and maintained very efficent traffic control on all highways. Due to the effective work of the combined forces and equipment, property improvement losses consisted of only several small isolated structures. While the heavily developed Silverado Canyon area was evacuated, the fire was checked at its edge and no losses were suffered. One helicopter was used for reconnaissance purposes, as well as delivering men and supplies to critical sections of the line.

The major loss incurred by this fire was the complete destruction of all cover on about 50% of the Santiago Reservoir drainage area which constitutes Orange County's major watershed. The area of this watershed burned amounted to some 20,000 acres. A survey party is now in the field from the California Forest and Range Experiment Station for the purpose of determining what the potential flood damage may be and what measures can be taken to minimize these dangers. Since most of the soil in this area is of sedimentary origin, it represents some of the most erosive soil that we have in the mountains of this State. It is hoped that through the exercise of Public Law 534 of the Flood Control Act of December 22, 1944, and with some local and State cooperative funds, that it will be possible to reseed about 25,000 acres of the most important area for the purpose of minimizing soil erosion and reservoir siltation. If such cannot be accomplished, it is possible that most of the storage capacity of the Santiago Reservoir will be lost. Both Orange County and the major property owners have indicated their willingness to contribute considerable funds for this purpose. Since reseeding should be accomplished before the Fall rains set in, time is of the essence. At this writing, wind and humidity conditions are still bad, but heavy patrol is being maintained to prevent another outbreak.

On the bright side, however, statistical records show quite a decrease in both number of fires and acreage burned for the period ending October 31. As of that date 4,026 fires were controlled in comparison to 5,512 in 1947, 5,733 in 1946, and 6,218 in 1945. Acreage burned showed a reduction of 227,000 over 1947, 159,000 over 1946, and 404,000 over 1945. It is true that weather has played an important part in this reduction but by no means can it be considered entirely responsible for the reduction. With the exception of the month of October, fire statistics indicate a reduced number of fires over a similar period of last year for every month in the fire season. Most notable are the figures of August and September when historically weather conditions are at their worse as far as the possibilities of forest fires are concerned. In August, for example, 367 fires were reported as against 955 in 1947, 1,048 in 1946, and 1,295 in 1945. September figures are also interesting in that conditions as to wind were much more critical this year than last, yet, there were but 731 fires reported as against 914 in 1947 for the same period, 969 in 1946, and 1,094 in 1945. Comparative figures for the month of October are 380 fires in 1948, 280 in 1947, 557 in 1946, and 617 in 1945.

It is felt by the Division that fire prevention efforts have been helpful in reducing the losses suffered this year to State's resources. While increased attention was being given the educational program by the California Fire Prevention Committee which we organized last year, Division of Forestry personnel were intensifying their hazard reduction and educational programs at the local level. To illustrate accomplishments in these fields the following figures are noted:

In cooperation with the State Division of Highways and land owners we accomplished roadside hazard reduction work along 8,000 miles of roadside right-of-way. Division employees made 1,013 sawmill, 552 dumpground, 756 public area, 279 industrial, and more than 10,000 rural and summer home inspections. They made 3,000 individual inspections

of mechanized equipment that operated in mountain and rural zones, contacted 70,000 people while on fire prevention patrols, and discussed fire prevention with more than 60,000 people through organized group meetings. To caution local people, as well as travelers, in the use of fire field men have made 1,900 press contacts for news stories, 66 radio talks, and 514 contacts to secure radio short announcements. They distributed 16,000 posters, erected 200 large roadside signs, circulated 270,000 leaflets and prepared more than 1,500 displays for store windows and theatre lobbies. Although efforts of the California Fire Prevention Committee have not yet been completely tallied, estimates indicate approximately two hundred million individual contacts in fire prevention have been made through the media of the press, radio, motion picture houses, television, outdoor advertising, posters, leaflets, and the house organs and consumer publications of large industries. It can be emphasized at this time that we have but scratched the surface of this fire prevention educational program and that we intend to intensify efforts just as rapidly as possible.

The Division this month initiated action for subsequent purchase of a part of the new and replacement equipment included in the current year's budget. This action involves the procurement of 22 fire trucks, 20 crew trucks, 11 bulldozers of the D-7 type, and two diesel transport units. Received this month from the manufacturer were some 30 handy-talky radio sets that will be used in the control of forest fires. These units are in the 30 megacycle band and have an effective range, depending upon terraine, from one to four miles.

Experimentation and testing continued this month in the radio field in an attempt to alleviate certain interference difficulties that have been experienced during the fire season.

During the month, more than 60 miles of telephone lines have been constructed in District II, 30 in District IV, 20 in District V, and 20 in District I. Surveys have been completed on 15 miles of road in District II and 6 miles in District IV.

The Lassen County ranger office and residence has been started this month as has the ranger office at the Nevada City Headquarters in Nevada County. Mt. Oso Lookout in Stanislaus County is entirely completed.

Bids were received during the month, all of which were within the limits of available funds, for the erection of equipment storage and warehouse buildings at Hopland, Mendocino County, West Los Banos, Merced County, and Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County. To be used for necessary road construction work, the Division this month, transported from Hawthorne, Nevada, 100,000 pounds of explosives.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. Does an owner of private land within a National Forest secure his permit for a control burn from the nearest Federal Ranger?

2. How many State Forests are there in California presently and can you name them?

3. How many Divisions are there in the Department of Natural Resources and can you name them?

4. When a lookout gives a reading on a fire to the dispatcher, is it a bearing or an azimuth?

5. Is a man-caused fire within the boundaries of a National Forest called a "fire trespass"?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE OF NEWS LETTER

1. Presently there are 18 National Forests in Region 5 of the United States Forest Service.

2. A contour line may be defined as a line, all points of which have the same elevation and is used on a map to indicate topography.

3. A Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) is a "soft wood". The term soft wood applies generally to coniferous trees. The term "hard wood" applies generally to broad leaf species.

4. The title of the officer known as the "appointing power" of the Division is the Director of the Natural Resources. The Director delegates much of his authority as appointing power on to the State Forester.

5. There are 58 counties in the State of California.

6. California is the first State to have a Forestry organization.

7. There are 80 chains in a mile. A section is 80 chains on every side.

NEWS FROM A RETIRED FRIEND

"Retirement from active service has its good points. One of these is the letters you receive from friends. I have received forty-five of them from you fellows and they are all placed in a leather bound notebook cover where I can keep them indefinitely. I have read each of these letters several times already. I shall read them again and again in the future particularly on rainy winter days when I can sit back and reminisce about times spent in the past with each of you. The recollections will be pleasant ones, I assure you. It is a source of gratification to know that I have so many fine friends in the State Division of Forestry. I esteem that friendship very much. If I helped you some in your jobs, you also helped me. So we are even on that score. I have looked you up many times. Now when the opportunity offers, I hope you will look me up at my home here in Albany. Best of luck and success to all of you.

Sincerely
s/C. R. Tillotson
1136 Evelyn Avenue
Albany 6, California"

ABOUT THE DIVISION

NEWS FROM CALAVERAS COUNTY

Members of the fire control group in Calaveras County are contemplating with some apprehension their new duties of switchboard operator. The San Andreas Headquarters office has been brought more up to date with a new telephone switchboard and an array of 54 switches proved somewhat disconcerting at first inspection. However, Clerks Mary Serra and Solveig Pfeiffer seem to have the situation well in hand and are passing on their knack of handling the two trunk lines and seven extensions. The new board is definitely a forward step in improving our telephone communications and we are extremely pleased with its performance. The new unit is exemplary of the fact, too, the P.T. & T. isn't resting on its laurels but is constantly improving its equipment.

Local nimrods who are referring to 1948 as a successful year are Foreman Andy Lavagnino, Fred Day, and Clarence Dormody, and Assistant Ranger Jack Jackson. Assistant

Ranger Herb Caton and Ranger Jim Fenlon each got at least one shot that we know of, but all Equipment Operator Foster Vernon got was the feel of his rifle. "Brad" Bradford, our new Associate, spent the deer season merely hunting fires and in this he proved moderately successful.

Two of our cooks waded into the recent examination and we are wishing them luck on the outcome. Emile Autrand hails from Jamestown in Tuolumne County. He has been cooking at our Murphys Station. The Altaville cook, "Nat" Egan, isn't far from home. The station is located in his home town of Angels Camp. Nat has the distinction of being the only cook to remain with us this entire season, a particularly noteworthy achievement in view of the fact his foreman is Andy Lavagnino, a real taskmaster.

Vernon E. Cassell
Forest Fire Dispatcher

SUGGESTS NAMING OF LOOKOUT FOR TILLOTSON

We all are familiar by this time with the recent retirement of C. R. Tillotson which became effective this summer. I know that all who knew Tillie will feel as I do that we owe a great deal to him for his interest in our organization over the past several years and for his part in having brought our organization up to its present standards. Although he was technically on the pay roll of the U. S. Forest Service, I believe that many of us felt that he actually was more a part of our organization than that of the U. S. Forest Service.

In checking the names of lookouts I find such unimaginative names as Lone Pine, Pine Hill, Wolf Creek, Bear Mountain, and Little Mountain. Then we run the gauntlet of colors with Bald Mountain, Black Mountain, Green Mountain, Blue Ridge, Red Top, Copper Peak, and Red Mountain. Then, of course, there are the colorful names of Gualala, Iaqua Butte, Grasshopper, Bullychoop, Penon Blanca, Joaquin Rocks, and Pattymocus.

Although I do not know if there are any plans in the offing for the establishment of any new lookouts I would like to suggest that if there are any new sites intended that consideration be given to naming one for our friend Tillie. Or, if no new ones are in the immediate future, that some thought be given to renaming one of those mentioned above. I think that if this is done that the lookout selected should be one which has a coverage over Zones I and II, naturally. If it cannot be decided which lookout is to be considered for this naming, may we suggest that in Placer County we have an excellent site for a new lookout which we would be very happy to have considered.

I feel that we owe Tillie a great deal and that the naming or renaming of a lookout covering the Clarke-McNary area would be most fitting and proper.

Emery Sloat
State Forest Ranger

FIELD DAY WELL ATTENDED

On Wednesday, October 20, the Soil Conservation District of Nevada County held a Field Day or Demonstration Day. The Walter Gage ranch 3 miles west of Grass Valley was chosen for the demonstration as it contained all the land features necessary for a complete field day.

The property was divided into several units and conservation practices were demonstrated on each unit. Unit number one was a second growth plot where a Farm Forestry Demonstration was put on by our Division. Bill Maguire, Farm Forester for

District III, addressed the gathering and explained tree marking, products harvested, and other aspects of proper second growth management.

As a part of the forestry demonstration, fence posts were treated with pentachlorophenol to make them resistant to decay. Earl Bowe of the Wood Treating Chemical Company and Mr. Ryan of the Pacific Oil and Grease Company put on this part of the demonstration.

The crowd was estimated at about 800 people and it is believed that many farmers now have a better appreciation of the economics involved in the management of their "tree" crops.

Lew Moran
State Forest Ranger

WHAT'S NEW IN KINGS COUNTY

1. The cotton harvest is at its peak in Kings County, this causes a great influx of transient labor, in this area which in turn means we are having an average of one fire call a day. Most of these fires are small such as cotton, trailers, small tent houses and warming fires being left unattended causing fire to spread into dry sloughs.

2. We have just completed "20,000 BRICK" to be used this winter in constructing new fire stations. We plan to complete a combination fire house and living quarters at Hall's Corner, also, an office and Ranger's house at Headquarters. All of the work is being done by the County employees and prisoners from the County jail.

3. A meeting was held in Madera, November 8th consisting of field personnel, the discussions and planning was most satisfactory.

4. Everyone is watching the skies these days and doing a lot of praying, but not a drop of rain. The water table is getting lower day by day, in fact, the situation is not very bright.

5. New hydrants are being installed in some of the outlying tracts adjacent to the City of Hanford, this eliminates the hauling of water from the City of Hanford, to suppress a fire just outside the City limits. This is a most satisfactory and progressive arrangement.

6. "WITH THE BEST OF LUCK TO THE BOYS IN THE SOUTH, WHO ARE NOW HAVING A CHAIN OF SERIOUS FIRES".

C. E. Lindley
Associate State Forest Ranger

FROM FRESNO COUNTY WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING NEWS

FRESNO COUNTY IS FIRST AGAIN! The first lost deer hunter of the year, (Division of Forestry employee, that is), has been found and is back on duty. Bob Hebrard, Fresno County fire truck driver, became separated from his hunting companion in the wild Coolidge Meadows area of the Sierra National Forest and spent a very uncomfortable night wandering up and down the Kings River Canyon. It is claimed that his teeth tap danced all night long, the temperature dropping to around 20 degrees that night. Fire conscious Bob would not build a fire during the night, (no permit). Four of his fellow workers started a search for him in the middle of the night and were supplemented by an additional four the

following morning. Bob found his way back to camp the next morning, teeth still chattering. He has now been restricted to Zone 3.

Gerald L. McCarty, Fresno Headquarters Foreman, recently joined the ranks of happily married men. He would now like to see the fire season end, seems that he wants to spend more than forty-eight hours a week at home.

The Fresno County Fair, the first since before the war, is over. The Division of Forestry had a fine display which was visited by thousands of people. We are already planning a larger and better display for next year. Horse racing was one of the major attractions of the Fair and it is rumored that a certain foreman being attracted to the two dollar window, did quite well for himself and the ranger received a liberal education too.

We are expecting a flood of applicants for transfer to Fresno County as soon as the 1948 fire statistics for the State are made available through the News Letter. Why! Only 17 fires for a total of 83 acres burned in the State protection area.

N. O. Stephens, Assistant Ranger in Fresno County for years, and years, and years, has been transferred to the Raymond District in Madera County. Good luck, Steve, in your new location.

The recent Range Improvement burns in Fresno County have been seeded and we are all waiting patiently for results, the reason, it rained during the seeding and should produce quick results. Whose hat was contributed to the cause!

We are fortunate in having among the fire fighters a sign painter of no little ability, at the present writing signs have been made for the District Office, District Warehouse, County Headquarters and all of our fire control stations. We bow to "The Old Man of the Mt., Bruce Hufford" for "insisting" that we accept this man's transfer.

The new Hurley Fire Control Station is being rushed to completion, it is being constructed entirely of concrete blocks and will rank with any station for beauty. The kitchen wing is about one-half completed and ground has been leveled for the garage and gas house. Gone from Fresno County are the days of the cook and sleeping tents.

Two new GMC fire trucks and one new Dodge crew truck have been received and put in service. They are beautiful and practical pieces of equipment and should give years of excellent service.

Ranger A. Roy Bengard, is anxiously awaiting the go signal for construction of the new Fresno County Headquarters near the City of Sanger. Five acres of vineyard will have to be removed to make way for the station. We are willing to bet that the grapes, a full arms length outside the fence, never reach maturity.

Ray Higgins
Associate Ranger

FROM SAN BENITO COUNTY

All was great hustle and bustle in San Benito County for the past week. San Benito County was holding it's annual County Fair. The Division of Forestry was invited to be an exhibitor and there was a general hurry and scurry to find material and supplies to build a booth. It's all over now and the boys are all sitting around with self-satisfied smirks on their faces. The reason? Well it all goes back to the beginning of the season.

When fire season first started and fire fighters began to arrive, we laid out a garden and planted squash, peas, watermelons, cucumbers and many other things so as to help out our meal cost. We ran into quite a few little quirks and twists, but gradually there evolved quite a garden. Of course, with 51 cucumber hills there was quite a surplus of cukes, but soon we had every crock and jar filled with pickles, pickles, and more pickles, both sweet and dill. Then, came the fair.

Under the capable hands of Foreman Bob Clark a very nice little booth was constructed. We entered our squash, melons, cucumbers, and pickles, although we didn't have the right size jars for our pickles, and we couldn't enter our produce for money as we didn't enter before the final filing date, but we entered and we sat back to wait.

Well our booth was quite an attraction as it showed movies continuously for three days from 10:30 A.M. till midnight. On the final day we found we had shown our booth to 5,500 people and our Hubbard squash had taken 1st prize, our pickles also were judged to be 1st prize, but we didn't receive a ribbon because we used the wrong size jars. Incidentally, the pickles were put up by our very capable cook Mrs. Sadie Bailey, who has been with the Forestry for several years. Our garden was planted and cared for by "Nick Becker," Forest Firefighter, who has been with the Forestry for the past three seasons.

The 1st place blue ribbon now reposes on the office wall at Hollister for all to admire. You all have our cordial invitation to come and look at it. I don't believe finance will allow travel expenses though.

Forest Technician Lee Burcham is experimenting with a brush control project in San Benito County. He has working with him State Forest Ranger John P. Wade, Assistant Forest Technician John Dowakin, Assistant Farm Advisor Paul Pattingale, Forestry Engineer John Otter, Forest Technician Herman Myers, and many others.

John P. Wade
State Forest Ranger

A REPLY TO RANGER AUSTIN'S ARTICLE IN LAST MONTH'S NEWS LETTER

Have been reading last month's News Letter and was very much interested in Ranger Austin's letter regarding "The New Look," in automotive equipment. He certainly gave all of us something to think about, but I believe, we could go further with his thought. Ranger Austin's county is one that exemplifies just how mixed up the color scheme can be. He has a yellow Ford, a black and red Dodge, a two tone green Chevrolet, and a dark green Chevrolet, assigned to his Assistant Ranger. He drives a two tone green sedan and his associate drives a glaring red Dodge. Here in San Benito County we have a tractor man driving a yellow Ford, a vegetable man driving a black and red Dodge, a garbage man driving a two tone green Chevrolet, and a local turkey grower hauls feed in a green Chevrolet. The town banker drives a two tone Chevrolet, and one of the prune growers here drives a glaring red Dodge. This same holds true in every county. San Benito County also has black, red, and green pickups. Thank goodness we don't have any yellow ones. I hold with Ranger Austin when he speaks of two tone color schemes, but in an organization such as ours, which is a law enforcement agency and also semi-militant, I think that all cars should be the same color even though they be two tone. Certainly the California Highway Patrol, which is also a law enforcement agency plus being semi-militant, has a distinctive two tone automobile. I believe that if we would follow the example set by the Highway Patrol our organization would be more respected and looked to. I believe that a very good color would be green and white with the State seal on the doors as usual.

Ranger Austin also speaks of the Assistant Ranger and Associate being used as administrative men in the district. This is true, and I believe, that they should be entitled to administrative type vehicles. It's certainly disturbing to dress up in our idea of a uniform and climb into a pickup to go to a meeting or gathering and upon alighting from the pickup find your "Pinks" all smeared with diesel fuel left there when you last hauled diesel to such and such a tractor.

Of course this brings up uniforms and this News Letter would be very heavy if it contained all the ideas of uniforms that have been brought to our attention. Ranger Brittons men are about the most uniformily garbed men in our district and I believe their green uniforms to be very striking. Ranger Austin started the ball rolling and maybe through the medium of the News Letter we can all get together and decide an issue which has been talked to death.

San Benito County has started work on the two new fire control camps located at Bluejay Splash and Bear Valley. The wells have been dug although we are having a little trouble getting water in one of them. Both of these camps will be on our own property and will replace camps which have been rented from year to year.

Construction has also been started on the four bay garage at Panoche and this should be fimished in about four months. The new warehouse addition at Hollister is well under way and over 40 yards of concrete have already been poured. When finished this will give us a two story garage and warehouse housing four more autos and about 900 Sq. ft. of floor space for warehouse storage.

Ranger Wade is also the proud possessor of a brand "spanking" new 1948 Ford Sedan. The writer went for one last ride with Ranger Wade before he turned in his old Ford (1941). We went out to the well site at Bluejay Splash which is some forty miles away. We left at night and, "what a trip". The county "out that" just abounds with wild life. Going out we were very careful, but what with animals diving at the lights it wasn't long before we ran over a wild cat. Then there was a rabbit and another and so on. To top it all on the way back I spied a skunk ambling along and called for Ranger Wade to "hold it". He slowed down and ran over the skunk very slowly. Are we glad he got a new car.

John P. Wade
State Forest Ranger

HAPPENINGS IN DISTRICT IV

N. O. Stephens, formerly Assistant Ranger in Fresno County, has recently been transferred to Madera County. Stephens is at present in charge of the Raymond District where he now resides. He has 14 years with the C.D.F.

Harvey Striplin, U. C. forestry graduate of the class of '48, is now working as Dispatcher in Madera County. He was formerly in Santa Cruz County and was transferred to District IV at the termination of summer dispatcher positions in that district.

Ed Gutowski, Assistant Ranger now working in Fresno County, was reinstated after taking advantage of GI training. He attended a fire training school after leaving the military service. Before entering the service he was located in Kern County as an Assistant Ranger and now upon his return he is in charge of the Westside of Fresno County under the direction of Norman Nicholson, Associate Ranger in Coalinga.

Merced County's record of area burned this year is really something to point out. The average year's acreage burned is several thousand, but this year so far it is only .6 acres! Maybe that's just the lull before the storm, but anyway, we know that the storm can't come until next year!

Everyone in the District was suddenly amazed to learn of the sharp increase in offspring in Mariposa County recently, but our amazement was as quickly dampened when we learned that the family increase was only that Bruce Hufford's sow had a litter of little pigs!

Don Knowlton
Associate Ranger

HAPPENGINS IN DISTRICT V

Recently Johnnie Wade, Ranger of San Benito County, had a Junior size Ford presented to him by the Division to take the place of his 1940 V-8. Needless to say, Wade is having the time of his life with the various new gadgets on the instrument panel. It is understood that as soon as he masters this training model, the State will supply him with the regular 8 cylinder model.

J. E. Sindel
Associate State Forest Ranger

In looking over the last copy of the American Legion Magazine, I came across a picture of "our Dick" shaking hands with the National Commander of the Legion.

Needless to tell you, folks, it must have been a hard job for the photographer to get this picture as Richard is noted throughout the Division for his camera shyness plus being adverse to any newspaper publicity. I wonder how they tricked such an intrepid warrior into getting the picture?

Editor
P.U. Press

During the Santa Cruz fire, two "former employees" of the State Division of Forestry, one a cook and the other a truck driver, took a moonlight requisition on the Big Creek fire camp's grocery supply.

Moving said groceries to their home near Sacramento, the writer in company with R. A. "Mumps" Taylor and W. H. "Match Book" Fairbanks descended upon said home. Articles found that belong to C.D.F. resembled a cross between a "Lucky Grocery Store" and "Uncle Joe's Hock Shop". Needless to say it was necessary to press into service one Don Bennetts and his station wagon to transport the stolen articles.

It is hardly necessary to say that Justice of the Peace Dean of Santa Cruz Township was not impressed with the story told by the defendants. They are now spending their time at County expense in Santa Cruz County's most modern jail.

Moral: When you "Bring home the groceries" be sure they are not someone else's groceries.

Mace Pewtherer
Fire Prevention Officer

FROM SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

On September 16th the San Luis Obispo County Fair opened at Paso Robles and ran through the 20th of September. It was estimated that a total of 30,000 people were in attendance at the fair (dogs were not counted).

Prior to the opening of the fair, the local chapter of the State Division of Forestry were busily engrossed in assembling everything they possibly could which would be adaptable to their display and finally ended up with a collection of pine boughs, pine cones, an approved type spark arrester plus a drawing showing the integral workings of said arrester, colored slides, slide projector, and, as an additional drawing attraction, a collection of game birds (chuckers, quail and pheasants). The birds were secured from the Division of Fish & Game whom we certainly owe a vote of thanks, as the birds proved to be a very good drawing card to catch the roving eye of the fair-goers. The above mentioned objects, plus a few more items, were arranged in a very tasteful manner in a booth assigned us by the Fair Committee. Associate Ranger Nash-Boulden, Assistant Ranger Lester Lopez, and Foreman Jim Cantrell and Mervyn McEvoy were the interior decorators in charge. The booth proved to be of much interest to the general public and also, apparently, to the Judges who presented the boys with a Special Award Ribbon, of which they were justly proud.

One of the hi-lights of the fair was an occurrence on one of the days when young Jim Cantrell was the exhibitor in charge. Mr. Cantrell was busily showing slides and giving out information on the fire prevention activities of the Division of Forestry when he was rudely interrupted by one of his interested audience. She sharply commented, indicating the cigarette dangling from Jim's mouth, that she didn't believe that smoking a cigarette in the forest was quite the thing to do, apparently having come to the conclusion that the booth was a closed area. Mr. Cantrell, needless to say, turned a fiery red, hastily extinguished the offending cigarette, and continued his discourse, somewhat on the embarrassed side. Which really goes to show that at least a portion of the people in that area have taken the fire prevention lessons we have tried to teach to heart. During the course of the fair, we were able to distribute in the neighborhood of 10,000 pamphlets dealing with fire prevention, so hope the recipients of these pamphlets took as much interest in them as the aforementioned lady.

San Luis Obispo Headquarters Office

We certainly owe a vote of thanks for the hearty cooperation that we received from the San Luis Obispo County Tax Collector, Mr. Joe Barrett, who distributed through his mailing list approximately 20,000 fire prevention blotters and pamphlets, reaching every person owning property in San Luis Obispo County, wheresoever disbursed around the globe. Mr. Barrett has informed/the that he has received many, many letters from all over the United States endorsing his aid in the distribution of this material and assisting us in keeping California "Green and Golden".

A. O. Gossett, State Ranger

FROM DISTRICT VI

The first day of Fall ushered forth weather typical and District VI is hoping for a pleasant finish to one of the most successful fire seasons in District VI fire history. Preparedness is the first word and we shall endeavor to maintain this wonderful record.

The big Ojai fire in Ventura County saw seven of our units with overhead abeting in the suffocation of this disaster. These units were from Orange, Riverside, and

San Bernardino Counties with San Diego fortifying the home fronts wherever necessary.

NEWS FROM RAINBOW C A A CAMP, DISTRICT VI

"There's Something Fishy About All This"

Rainbow Camp, located in a plateau, between the communities of Fallbrook and Temecula, in District VI San Diego County, is essentially a Forestry Fire Suppression Camp during the fire season. It celebrated its second birthday in August of this year. The celebration being rather unique for occasions such as this because of the lack of anything harder than strong black coffee to ripen the joyous mood. For other than the Forestry Personnel, and the Camp Supervisors of the Department of Corrections, this Camp is made up wholly of inmate labor from the California Institution for Men at Chino, California working in agreement with the California Division of Forestry.

While not engaged in combating the numerous fire hazards in the four counties of San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange to which this Camp is subject to call, different work projects are accomplished within the Division's Program. Such duties as clearing fire breaks, brushing telephone lines, roads, etc; even recently doing a good deal of work in the construction of the new lookout tower on Boucher Hill which lies in the same range of mountains that include the famous Mt. Palomar Observatory and the world's largest telescope.

Early in the month of September, a different type of assignment was given the men of Rainbow. A serious emergency existed at the vacation resort of Lake Elsinore in Riverside County. This emergency was a phenomena of nature, wherein countless thousands of fish in the lake died and their bodies littered the surface of the water and surrounding beaches. The odor had become almost unbearable and the nearby residents demanded action.

Although somewhat different from their usual duties, the men of Rainbow jumped at the opportunity to help remove the dead fish from the lake. A special detail of 50 men under the Supervision of Forestry Work Project Supervisor C. A. Brown, Foreman Bill Haley, Foreman L. E. Parks, Foreman Fred Franklin, and Drivers Rowland and MacMichael of the Division of Forestry were dispatched to the scene.

During the course of the preceeding three days they worked long and hard under very trying conditions. A majority of the men had upset stomachs all during this period. In many instances it was necessary to wade into the water up to the chin, and many bad cases of sunburn resulted. Not a word of complaint was heard and the fine spirit of the men and their cooperation was evident throughout the assignment. At the end of the third day, all of the badly decomposed fish were removed and buried. A final analysis showed more than 1800 ton of dead fish were disposed of.

The men of Rainbow deserve a great deal of the credit, and their attitude reflects credit on the Division as a whole. Even now, more than two weeks after the ordeal, with the men back once again, in the thick of a torrid fire season, one can hear comments and jokes passed around about the Big Fish Story of the Year.

C. A. Brown
Forestry Work Project Supervisor

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, DISTRICT VI

Officially announced!

Congratulations are in order for Assistant Ranger Emmett R. Donohue and his bride

who was Miss Zoe Ann Strickler before their marriage the latter part of August. We all wish to offer our very best wishes for a long and happy life together. Mr. Donohue is an Assistant Ranger in charge of District Seven in San Diego County with headquarters at the Red Mountain Station near Fallbrook.

Belated congratulations (at last) are also in order for our Julian Forest Firetruck Driver of long standing Clyde R. "Pete" McGregor. The bride was Miss Rosie Berchel of Julian. Both are singularly happy now, they have a collie pup!

Leona Minga
Intermediate Clerk

Taking a squint through the sume and haze of this summer day at our project of getting the upper hand with the beetles this winter, we see and forecast a great deal of work. On a recent survey by Ye Old "Buggers" Rice, Hastings, Schori, and Engen, U.S.B. of E. & P.Q, the fades showed bright yellow in the Julian area, North Peak and a few in Cuyamaca State Park. The greatest threat to our evergreens lies in Boulder Creek on the Marston Ranch. This rancer has one thought in mind, that is to cut all pines and oaks and make pasture. His trees are infected on the average of eight tops per acre.

Most of the old hands will be on call again this winter to tear at 'em. This winter the procedure will follow the previous pattern with more emphasis on getting all trees down on the ground properly cleaned and most of all, a complete working over of all equipment and camp sites.

The continued drought has caused the little "Bugs" to continue their family life with greatest exuberance, emerging, drifting away to another weakened and disease tree to brood anew.

Summing up the situation, it shows a vast decrease in last year's infestation throughout the entire area. The percentage of infestation is at least one half of last years, thus proving that all the labor put in last winter was to some avail.

Guy A. Konnersman
Assistant State Forest Ranger

RIVERSIDE COUNTY, DISTRICT VI

Flash! The stork recently added a new firefighter to the Riverside County crew, Thomas Earl Belcher, born September 16, 1948, at the Riverside Community Hospital. The new man's proud father is our CDF Driver at Blythe Air Base. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Belcher.

Speaking of blessed events, Riverside County has just been able to retire several of our most ancient pieces of pumping, as they have been replaced by a new GMC tanker and a Dodge crew truck. Both units are now in service and doing quite well.

Assistant Ranger Harvey French and his crew from Elsinore have recently started on the County's largest project; namely, the moving of some 6200 cubic yards of fill dirt to the present Elsinore site in preparation for the construction of the proposed new station. Working at top speed with his present crew and equipment, Harvey calculates it will take some five months or better to complete the fill work. After the fill is in, several hundred feet of retaining walls must be constructed prior to starting the new buildings.

The construction business down this way has been in full swing for the past eight or nine months and it looks as though the tempo will be even greater during the next year or two. A present the walls of the new Sunnymead Station are on their way up but

the fellows still have some nine thousand concrete blocks to lay up before they are through.

Deane L. Bennett
Assistant State Forest Ranger

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, DISTRICT VI

HATS OFF TO CHARLIE ENNIS

From the lookout's standpoint, 1948 should go down in Forestry history as a memorable year with the "New Look" towers that are being constructed in various parts of California. The most outstanding feature of the Boucher Hill lookout is the octagonal shape cab (observation roof to you) with its colored plate glass- solex - windows. This soft bluish coloring eliminates all sun glare and reflects it, affording 40% better visibility. And, to delight the heart of the spouse there is a white enamel refrigerator, sink, drain board, and electric stove.

The floor below the cab boasts a much needed bath with ample space remaining for a bed and chest of drawers and being walled off from the stairs, provides desired privacy for the occupant. Two windows give excellent ventilation and light.

The south wing, or room below this, is well constructed for a pool room, badminton, or what-have-you - 16 sq. ft. of good substantial space to be used as your heart desires. The ground floor is the answer to any man's dream of a garage with ample space to accommodate the Rollys-Royce(?). IT IS TRULY A LOOKOUT MAN'S DREAM COME TRUE.

Mr. Ennis advises yours truly it had been a dream of his for many years to design and build an improve type of tower. The Division can well be proud that Mr. Ennis's dream has materialized.

Claude E. Huse
Forest Fire Lookout

FORESTRY AT HOME AND ABROAD

AMERICAN FORESTERS MEET IN BOSTON IN DECEMBER

The annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters will be held December 16-18 in Boston, Mass., at the Statler Hotel. More than 500 are expected to attend.

President of the Society Clyde S. Martin of Tacoma, Wash., announces the meeting will open with individual sessions of the Society's nine divisions having to do with private forestry, forest economics, forest recreation, forest products, forestry education, wildlife management, range management, silviculture, and public relations.

Forestry Digest, October, 1948

NEW METHOD FOR DRYING PINE

A solvent method for drying pine lumber may soon prove to be an important Western source of turpentine, resin acids, fatty acids, pine oil and plant sterols.

Forestry Digest, October, 1948

INDUSTRY PAYS MAJOR SHARE FOR FIRE PROTECTION IN OREGON-WASHINGTON

Timber industries in Washington and Oregon spent $3,696,767 for direct forest fire protection during 1947. The expenditure was the highest on record, W. D. Hagenstein, forest engineer for the West Coast Lumbermen's Association and the Pacific Northwest Loggers Association announced.

Counting expenditures made by the two state governments, the fire protection costs for the year in Washington and Oregon totalled $6,265,602.

Hagenstein cited industry's own record, emphasizing expenditures within the "Tree Farm" program which approached 25 to 30 cents an acre annually.

While national figures on 1947 forest fires showed an alarming increase in both numbers and acreage burned, the Oregon-Washington field of industry-state cooperation held fire loss to very low figures.

In 1947 the two states reported 2146 fires on non-federal lands as compared to 2056 in 1946. The acreage burned in 1947 was 16,443 as compared to 20,486 in 1946.

Hagenstein said the more than three and one-half million dollars industry spent for forest fire protection did not include another half million paid by land owners as assessments to private fire protective associations or funds paid to the states for protection of private lands.

Forestry Digest, October, 1948

LOUISIANA IS TWENTY-FOURTH STATE TO JOIN KEEP GREEN

Louisiana became the twenty-fourth state to join the national "Keep Green" program September 7. The action was taken by the Louisiana Forestry Association. The campaign against forest fires will get underway this Fall.

John B. Ferran, executive secretary of the association, said a gigantic state-wide campaign will be staged.

The "Keep Green" program was approved at a meeting held in Alexandria. The association also approved a plan to publish a monthly forestry journal.

Forestry Digest, October, 1948